

## SUFFS STORM FOOTLIGHTS IN COMEDY ROLES

To Finance "Cause," Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont Writes Operetta.

"Ma Pepper" Breaks Into New Yawk "400" on Glue.

SOCIETY PANNED TO A CRISP

"Women Know Nothing, Think Nothing, Wear Nothing."

"Pa," Who Is Old Fashioned, Gets Terribly Shocked.

BY GRACE PHELPS.

New York, Feb. 11.—Society folks—those who are and those who'd like to be—come in for a severe scolding in the suffrage operetta "Melinda and Her Sisters," written by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont and Miss Elsie Maxwell.

But turned now is the tide and we cannot be denied.

We are coming in our millions to enlighten.

For they need us great and small and we'll gladly give our all.

To show what we can do, if we've the chance.

St. girls, girls, put away your curls Put away your petticoats and frills.

Step right into line, cease now to repine We'll show them all that we can learn.

Left! Right! We can stand the pace We've done with teas and balls.

We've forgotten how to dance, We'll show them what we can do, if we've the chance.

Last of all, Melinda persuades Mayor Dooley with:

"The country has been going to the dogs for quite a while now. Why not let us take the reins for a change?"

Those who'd like to be probably won't forgive the authors, but those who are perhaps will forget the satire in their enjoyment of the wit. Whether they do or not, whether they don't, "Melinda" is sure to make a hit. Mrs. Belmont firmly believes it will make millions of dollars for suffrage and charity after it is sent on tour.

The operetta will have its premier at the Waldorf February 14 and will be sung by society men and girls and professionals.

Breaks Into the "400."

That happy go lucky comedienne, Miss Marie Dressler, has the principal part. As "Ma Pepper" she has ambitions to leave the lowly confines of Oshkosh and break into New York's "four hundred."

"Ma Pepper" made his money in glue and glue is as hard to live down as it is to get away from. Worse than that, although seven of the Pepper girls are "perfect ladies," Melinda is a suffragette. Pa's ideas are old fashioned, too, and while he is being snatched by Miss Dressler gets off some choice lines.

"Education," she demands. "What has that to do with a lady?"

"A perfect lady should know absolutely nothing." Then she creates an atmosphere of mystery and elusive charm. She should know nothing, think nothing, wear—er, that is, dress well.

"Pa" Gets Enlightened.

Pa, who is Preston Gibson off stage, feebly ventures to hope that his girls may at least be kind hearted. But Ma turns on him.

"Kind hearted? Did you ever hear of a lady that was kind hearted? They don't teach such things at finishing school now."

Pa: "But, haven't they been brought up to become good wives and mothers?"

Ma (Quite shocked): "Don't be so indecent, John. No well bred woman at all prominent socially ever associates motherhood with marriage."

Pa: "I give it up. I thought when young people married they lived for their children and each other."

Ma: "Each other? How vulgar! Any woman who sits at the same table with her own husband more than once a week is simply a slut. That's the ironical social role laid down at Newport last season."

With Other Women's Hands.

Ma (Protesting): "But whom do we dine with, if not with their husbands?"

Ma: "Why, with other women's husbands, of course."

Pa (Sadly): "Well, things have changed since I was a boy."

Ma: "And since I was a girl—thank heaven!"

Mrs. Grundy and Mrs. Malaprop deplore the sticky beginnings of the Peppers.

Mrs. Grundy: "The trouble these married couples are in is simply terrible. Who was John Pepper?"

A nobody, a nonentity—until one day he found out that glue was good to stick things with. And he has stuck ever since, until glue and Mrs. Pepper produced his eight daughters, four bathrooms, three chow dogs, a man-sard roof, a real English butler and

now have to receive him into the holy of holies along with his stuck up wife—simply because of glue!"

Takes Hint—To Spend It.

Mrs. Malaprop: "Well, it takes brains to make money."

Mrs. Grundy: "Any fool can make money. It takes a clever person to spend it. The rich certainly have things their own way in this country. They say that in New York women can have their hair any color they like as long as it suits the color of the dog they're wearing!"

Mrs. Malaprop: "Ma," is the stepping stone to higher life. So, she invites the "society" of Oshkosh to the girls' coming out party. Just to make sure that the papers give the right space to the affair, she insists that Addison Mizner, as the "real English butler," translate their plain names into high sounding titles.

Mrs. Paul Draper, as Mrs. Know-it-all, remarks:

"The higher education for women is to know just who and where and when to cut people. If you know a woman on Fifth avenue you must not recognize her on Sixth. It simply wouldn't do!"

A Suffragette Song.

The songs, which were written and composed by Miss Maxwell, are clever and catchy.

When Melinda finally convinces the whole company that suffrage is the only thing in life, "Ma" gets excited and sings:

"For a thousand years or so, since many moons ago Men have ruled us women east and west."

From the nave man in his lair, to the flier in the air To keep us women down they thought But turned now is the tide and we cannot be denied.

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